

Exodus 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

God emphasizes empirical verification—'ye have seen' (אָתֶם רָאִיתֶם, *atem re'item*). Israel's faith isn't blind; it's grounded in witnessed theophany. They saw God speak 'from heaven' (מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם, *min-hashamayim*)—not from idol, mountain, or Moses' imagination but from God's heavenly throne. This validates the law's divine origin. Faith rests on revelation, not speculation. Jesus performs signs so people might believe (John 20:30-31); Christianity is historical, not mythical. God 'talked with you' uses second person plural—He addressed the nation, not just Moses. The community witnessed divine speech. Modern skepticism says 'I'd believe if I saw a miracle'; Israel saw and still rebelled.

Historical Context

Ancient religions claimed divine origin for their laws, but Israel's claim is unique—600,000+ witnesses heard God speak. The public nature of Sinai revelation distinguishes it from private visions or angelic messages claimed by other religions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the public, witnessed nature of Sinai revelation strengthen the law's authority?
2. Why do people demand signs yet often disbelieve even when they see them (compare Israel's later idolatry)?

Interlinear Text

תַּאמַּר ר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	כֹּה	תַּאמַּר ר
Thus thou shalt say	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H3541	Thus thou shalt say
H559	H3068		H4872		H559
אֶל	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת־	רְאִיתֶם	כִּי
H413	unto the children	of Israel	H859	Ye have seen	H3588
	H1121	H3478		H7200	H4480
הַשָּׁמַיִם	דְּבַר רְתִי	עִמָּכֶם:			
with you from heaven	that I have talked	H5973			
H8064	H1696				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:13 (Parallel theme): Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

Deuteronomy 4:36 (Parallel theme): Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.

